

WELCOME IMAM HENDI AND
COMMENCEMENT OF RAMADAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to extend a warm welcome to Imam Hendi.

He is here with us today as guest chaplain and here to observe the commencement of Ramadan—the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal.

Imam Hendi has spent his life educating and working with youngsters and students to guide their spiritual development and to educate them on the tenets and faith of Islam.

He was the first Muslim chaplain designated by Georgetown University where he currently serves.

Back in 1991, I was the first Member of Congress to invite an imam to pray before the House.

Today we share again the rich religious diversity of America by welcoming Imam Hendi.

This morning, at the commencement of Ramadan we send our greetings as our Muslim citizens and Muslims around the world prepare for this holy month of spiritual renewal.

Islam is one of the largest world religions, and one of America's major religions.

Muslims from all over the world are valued members of our American communities.

And this Muslim community comes together in the United States from all corners of the world: the Middle East, Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Africa to celebrate their faith in our country.

In this month of introspection, faith, prayer and cleansing, together we share the horror of American Muslims felt when they witnessed criminals use their sacred faith as an excuse for their crimes.

While we will not excuse the criminal acts of September 11, so too can we never excuse those who seek to blame Muslims as a whole for those acts.

Nor will we, as a Nation, tolerate acts of violence and hatred directed towards those who practice Islam.

This has been made clear, from the President on down.

There can be no battle between the United States and the Muslim world, because the United States is part of the Muslim world.

Today we have 6 million Muslims in the United States, and that number continues to grow.

We welcome our Muslim citizens, and we value them, and we send them our best wishes.

I would like to close by stating my support as a cosponsor of Congressman John LaFalce's resolution, H.Res. 280; to express solidarity and support for members of the Islamic community in the United States and around the world while commending them for their faith in Islam.

HONORING GENE PARKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a truly dedicated volunteer, Ms. Gene Parker, from

Southwest Colorado. Gene has spent over a century of her life working to help better understand previous cultures and the archeological preservation of the Anasazi culture.

Ms. Parker began her work as a volunteer for the Bureau of Land Management's Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado. Her duties include the inventorying of the center's collections, where she is relied upon to verify that each piece was properly documented for its historical study. Gene has also volunteered her services to the center's library, assisting with special events as they occur. She is also a member of the Anasazi Historical Society.

Gene has dedicated her time and effort for two days a week for the past fifteen years. Following recovery from a broken hip in 1999, Gene remained committed to continue her duties where she has amassed 1,814 volunteer hours.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Gene for her service to help preserve the artifacts of the ancient Anasazi culture. Her dedication to a worthwhile cause certainly deserves the praise of this body. Because of her efforts, many will now be able to better understand the Anasazi culture.

ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL'S
FOOD DRIVE COMMITTEE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Food Drive Committee at Saint Joseph's High School in Metuchen, New Jersey. For over thirty years, this Food Drive Committee has provided Thanksgiving food baskets for thousands of needy families throughout New Jersey.

This charitable food drive was inaugurated under the guidance of Brother George Woodburn. Currently, the Food Drive Committee operates under the auspices of the Saint Joseph's Student Council. Annually, this food drive provides hundreds of Thanksgiving food baskets to various food shelters and organizations for distribution to families in need.

The success and longevity of this event is due to the compassionate efforts of Saint Joseph's dedicated administration, faculty, and students. As a result of Saint Joseph's kind-hearted efforts, this month-long food drive enables hundreds of needy families to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner.

For four decades, Saint Joseph's has also been dedicated to the education and leadership development of young men residing in Central New Jersey. This institution prepares young men for post-secondary academic success, while also enabling them to acquire the skills and values essential to become responsible young adults.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Saint Joseph's High School for its dedication and commitment on behalf of needy families throughout New Jersey.

DULCE AND DECORUM EST . . . BY
JAMES F. CAHALAN, PH.D.

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

DULCE AND DECORUM EST

JIM CAHALAN, MAY 5, 2001

They once were boys, like you and me, Just little boys, not heroes then; Just small and ordinary.

No one could have known that when Their country called them overseas They'd give their all, more than could bear We who stayed in tranquil leas, Gave out medals, but no care.

We must engrave this one bold truth Of noble men who give their all, Keep us free from harm, forsooth, Safe, content, and out of thrall;

Who leave behind their homes and wives All to brave those hellish places, Sacrifice their very lives, Saving our eternal blazes,

And work to make much, much the less Of strife and human misery: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria vivere.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BERNICE
ELAINE FORCE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of Bernice Elaine Force who recently passed away in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on October 25, 2001. She began her life in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, born to Fred and Bessie Bishop Barber, where she attended the University of Michigan School of Nursing. After her marriage to Jack Force in 1932, the couple moved to Mesa, Colorado.

Throughout her life, Bernice was dedicated to providing healthcare services to those who were in need. She served in several hospitals throughout the state including Veterans Hospital in Grand Junction, Faith Hospital in Collbran, and Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs.

In her free time, Bernice enjoyed various activities and interacting with others who were in her life. Her most cherished time was spent with family. She was a dedicated wife, mother of three, grandmother to five, and great-grandmother of four. Bernice enjoyed gardening, fishing, baking and cooking. She was also an active member of her church.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Bernice Elaine Force. She devoted most of her ninety years to others and will be missed by those she touched. Her family and friends are grateful for her dedication and service to Glenwood Springs. As we mourn her passing, our thoughts are with those who knew her.